

education to African Americans. This year marks the 130th anniversary of the school's founding as "The High School for Colored Children." Originally housed in the former Washington School at 11th and Spruce streets in downtown St. Louis, the school was renamed on October 12, 1875, in honor of Charles Sumner, a Massachusetts Senator who was an ardent supporter of African-American rights. In 1861 Senator Sumner was the first U.S. Senator to call for full emancipation. The decision to name the school in his honor reflected the school's role as a preeminent institution for African Americans. Dropping "colored school" in favor of Sumner High occurred fifteen years before local African-American leaders succeeded in persuading the St. Louis Board of Schools to designate names for all segregated schools.

In the aftermath of the Civil War, Missouri passed a new state constitution requiring all school boards to support education for African Americans. However, the Board of Education for Colored Schools occupied only rented space and its schools moved often. Sumner was no exception. In 1895 it was relocated to 15th and Walnut streets, near the saloons and pool halls of downtown St. Louis. Concerned citizens petitioned school officials to move the school again and in 1910 Sumner was relocated to The Ville neighborhood, where it occupied a new structure at 4248 Cottage Avenue. The new Sumner High strengthened the neighborhood's status as a center for middle-class African-American life in St. Louis.

Another historical landmark tied to Sumner High School involved the hiring of African-American teachers. Initially, Sumner had an all white faculty, but the parents requested that a special effort be made to recruit African-American teachers. Two years later, in 1877, the school's first African-American principal took charge.

Sumner High School further enhanced educational opportunities for African Americans in Missouri when, in 1890, it established an extension called the Sumner Normal School to train elementary school teachers. In 1925 the Sumner Normal School became a college; it was known as the Sumner Teachers College until 1930 when it was renamed Harriet Beecher Stowe Teachers College. In 1940 the Teachers College moved to new facility on Pendleton Street where it remained until 1954 when, in one of St. Louis' first efforts to desegregate its public schools, the St. Louis Board of Education merged Stowe College with the all-white Harris Teachers College.

Sumner graduated its first class in 1885 and over the years its alumni list boasts a number of accomplished African Americans, including the opera singer Grace Bumbry, activist Dick Gregory, musician Tina Turner, tennis great Arthur Ashe, Liberian Ambassador Lester Walton, educator Julia Davis, rock history legend Chuck Berry, performer Robert McFerrin, actor Robert Guillaume, Yankee catcher-outfielder (and the American League's first black Most Valuable Player) Elston Howard and local newscaster Julius Hunter, to name just a few.

Mr. Speaker, it is with deep pride that I recognize Sumner High School, a symbol of progress in African American history for its distinguished record of achievement in public education. As a community leader and elected official, I am proud to salute Sumner and all Sumner students and alumni on this very special anniversary. Sumner High School is a

source of pride for St. Louisans and a model for public schools across the nation.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING TAX CREDIT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today with my good friend and colleague from the Committee on Ways and Means, Mr. ENGLISH, to introduce the "Affordable Housing Tax Credit Enhancement Act of 2005." Mr. ENGLISH and I share a passion for and commitment to ensuring that Americans have access to affordable, quality housing in which to live, to prosper and to raise their families. I am grateful for his continuing leadership in this area, and I am honored that he joins me today in introducing this important piece of legislation. I also am very pleased that 51 of our colleagues, including members from both sides of the aisle and several from the Committee on Ways and Means, join us today in introducing this measure.

Mr. Speaker, the Low Income Housing Tax Credit, LIHTC, program was created as part of the Tax Reform Act of 1986. Today, the LIHTC program is widely regarded as the nation's most successful housing production program resulting in the construction and rehabilitation of more than 1.3 million housing units for lower income households. As a direct result of the LIHTC program, 130,000 new affordable housing units come online every year.

In addition to producing housing, the LIHTC program is unparalleled in contributing to the revitalization of distressed neighborhoods and communities throughout the United States. LIHTC properties are frequently among the first investments in a concerted revitalization strategy. The credit drives and catalyzes public/private/community partnerships that replace blight with safe, affordable housing, attract private capital, and prime the market for other activities, including increased homeownership and expanded retail development.

The redirection of capital to affordable housing through a tax incentive creates net economic efficiencies, because the housing credit more effectively marshals private sector capital than would be accomplished through any direct spending program. Because it sets up competition among developers for credit allocations and among corporations for access to investment opportunities, the LIHTC is considerably more efficient than a direct spending program.

The success of the LIHTC program is virtually unmatched. However, as a Nation, we still confront a serious affordable housing deficit—a gap that we must bridge to ensure that our most vulnerable families have access to quality, affordable housing and safer neighborhoods in which to live and prosper.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Affordable Housing Tax Credit Enhancement Act of 2005. This legislation would make two important changes to current law. Most significantly, the bill would double the current LIHTC from \$1.85 per capita to \$3.70 per capita beginning in 2006, which would yield twice the number of affordable housing units annually and begin to close the current

gap. Second, the legislation would rename the LIHTC the "Affordable Housing" tax credit to remove any negative connotation and more accurately describe this effective program.

If this legislation were to pass, we are assured by affordable housing advocates, investors, syndicators, and developers that there is more than enough capacity in the market to effectively use these additional credits. In fact, the need for affordable housing throughout the country virtually assures the continued success of this program.

In addition, this legislation is a jobs creator. According to industry estimates, 112 jobs are created during the first year of construction of every 100 units of affordable housing, 46 of which morph into permanent positions. Based on that estimate, because doubling the current LIHTC would create 130,000 additional units annually, that translates into 145,600 new jobs nationally—59,800 of which would be permanent.

America is confronting an affordable housing crunch, and many hardworking men and women continue to seek employment. This legislation would make significant strides to address both problems. Therefore, I call on my colleagues to support this important measure and to ensure its consideration and passage.

STATEMENT IN HONOR OF THE HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF GREATER KANSAS CITY

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City. Founded in 1977 by 25 Hispanic business leaders, the Chamber was the first physical office of the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Since its inception, the Chamber has worked towards the development of its members, and worked to develop strong business relationships between Hispanic and non-Hispanic businesses in Kansas City. As one of the principal advocates for Hispanic businesses in the City, the Chamber provides an invaluable resource as it helps local businesses build capacity and develop business skills. Their programming includes the how-tos of business planning, advertising, sales and marketing, procurement and certification. In today's competitive business environment, their work is more important than ever.

Today, the Chamber represents the interests of twelve-hundred Hispanic-owned businesses in Metropolitan Kansas City and currently has five-hundred members, having grown by three-hundred percent in the last three years.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City, and I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to this historic organization.